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| Date Mailed June 3, 1999 |
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BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Petition of Customers of the Springstead Exchange of
CenturyTel of Northern Wisconsin, Inc. for Extended Area
Service With the Park Falls Exchange of GTE North
Incorporated

6040-TV-101

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO investigate the petition of customers of the Springstead exchange for extended area service (EAS). On May 12, 1999, the Commission received a petition from customers of the Springstead exchange of CenturyTel of Northern Wisconsin, Inc. (CTNW or CenturyTel) The petition requests EAS with the Park Falls exchange of GTE North Incorporated (GTE).

The Springstead exchange is in the northeast LATA of Wisconsin while the Park Falls exchange is in the northwest LATA. Although the exchanges are adjacent to one another, extended community calling does not apply to calls between the exchanges because they are in different LATAs. InterLATA toll charges apply and customers have a choice of interLATA toll providers to carry this traffic.

The petition includes approximately 63 signatures and thereby satisfies the requirement of Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.05(1). The Commission, therefore, will investigate the request for EAS between the Springstead and Park Falls exchanges in accordance with the EAS rules, Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 167. CenturyTel and GTE will be required to submit a study of the traffic between the respective exchanges in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.06. If the criteria of that section are satisfied, the Commission will request an economic study as provided for in Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.07, to be followed by a customer survey in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.08.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of CTNW. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the CTNW in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

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The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions on this matter may be addressed to case coordinator Tom Gross of the Commission staff at (608) 267-2337 or (800) 225-7729 or by e-mail: *grosst @psc.state.wi.us*.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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